

4.

Business Notices.

STRAVEN & MARVIN'S
WIGGERS PATENT BALANCE SCALES,
which run in use, and have been found to be the most accurate and reliable of any scales in use, and are now being sold by the manufacturer at a low price.
For sale by
YALE, SR.
UPPER CASE-DOOR LOCKS
and NIGHT LOCKS,
with a small key, and at a price within the means of all.
For sale at
No. 157 Fulton-st.,
on door east of Broadway.

DE FOREST, ARMSTRONG & CO.,
(Late Carter, Quinn & Co.)
IMPORTERS AND JOBBERS,
Nos. 30 and 32 Chambers-st.,
are now offering for sale a splendid variety of
MILKMAKING, COFFIN, SPRING, PACIFIC
PUMPS & C.

MANCHESTER, PACIFIC AND HAMILTON DELAVER,
SHIRTS, TIES, HOSIERY, & CLOTHING,
LAWSON, COB, AMONG, YORK MILE, DELAVER, LONDON,
WARRINGTON, and other popular brands.

LOWEST MARKET PRICE, FOR CASH OR APPROVED CREDIT.
It is the aim of the undersigned to keep a full and complete stock of all the latest styles of
GOUTHER, the choicest goods from imported and Home Productions, and to sell at the lowest price.
This stock embraces all articles necessary for the supply of a Retail Store.

SINGER'S SEWING MACHINES.—For all manufacturing purposes SINGER'S SEWING MACHINES are deemed to be the best. The public are invited to examine the same, and to be convinced of the superiority of the same. The undersigned has a full stock of the same, and is prepared to sell at the lowest price. The undersigned is also prepared to repair and improve the same. The undersigned is also prepared to sell the same on credit, at a low price.
I. M. SINGER & CO., No. 430 Broadway.

REMOVAL.—MARSH & CO.'S Radical Cure Truss Office, No. 24 Madison-st., removed to No. 24 West-st., Astor House, TRUSS, SUPPORTERS, SHOULDER-BRACES, SILK ELASTIC STOCKINGS, and every variety of Bandages for India, and from the continent, at a low price. Private rooms for ladies. A female in attendance.

THE OLD DOMINION
COFFEE POT
FOR SALE IN NEW-YORK.
AT MANUFACTURER'S PRICES.
By E. F. TORREY, No. 6 PLATT-ST.

FINE GOLD VEST CHAINS,
New Style
FOR GENTLEMEN.
For Sale at Retail, very Low, by
G. C. ALLEN, No. 11, Wall-st., 2d floor.

PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE ME.
Dr. J. B. Smith, who deposes and says that the Certificate of Cure made by his MAGNETIC SALVE, was true and genuine.
W. H. STEPHENS, Com. of Deeds, Mayor's Office, N. Y.
Filed at No. 77 Canal-st., near Church, and at District Court.

No. 813 BROADWAY.—This is the locality of CANTRELL'S establishment. He is understood to be continuing to sell his "MAGNETIC SALVE" at the low price of 12 1/2 and 14 per cent, and that he continues his entire attention to this only place of business. Ladies, buy your articles of dress, covering at CANTRELL'S. In manufacture and commerce his fabrics cannot be excelled.

DR. TOWNSEND'S SARSAPARILLA,
A PURIFIER OF THE BLOOD.
It cures all cases of skin, and purifies the blood, but it will also cure all other humors, cleanse the stomach, regulate the bowels, impart a tone and vigor to the whole system, and keep the blood pure.
One great recommendation for using this Sarsaparilla is that every bottle of it is manufactured under the direct supervision of Dr. J. B. Smith.

DR. J. B. SMITH,
the most celebrated Chemist and Physician in this country, and his certificate attached to each bottle of Sarsaparilla is "PURELY VEGETABLE AND WITHOUT MERCURY."
There has never been a medicine presented to the public which has so effectually cured skin diseases as "PURIFYING THE BLOOD AS DR. TOWNSEND'S SARSAPARILLA," and the fact that it has entirely superseded all other preparations claiming the same properties, attests its value.

PROF. ALM. C. BARRY'S TRICHOPOREUS
Is the best and cheapest article for Dressing, Beautifying, Cleaning, Curling, Preserving and Restoring the Hair.
Ladies, try it. For sale by all Druggists and Perfumers throughout the world.

POSTAGE STAMPS (3 and 10 cent), for sale at
the lowest price.

New-York Daily Tribune.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1858.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.
Subscribers, in sending us communications, frequently omit to mention the name of the person to whom they are to be sent. Always mention the name of the person to whom they are to be sent. Always mention the name of the person to whom they are to be sent. Always mention the name of the person to whom they are to be sent.

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The efforts to obstruct it having failed, the meeting called by George Bancroft, George Douglas, Geo. B. Butler and other Democrats who supported Mr. Buchanan's election, to protest against the forcible imposition of the Lecompton Constitution upon Kansas, will be held to-night at the Academy of Music, Fourteenth street, and will be certainly addressed by the Hon. FREDERICK P. STANTON, late Secretary of Kansas, removed by the President for calling an Extra Session of the recognized Territorial Legislature to provide for a legal and peaceful manifestation of the popular repugnance to the course of Calhoun, Henderson & Co., designed to force upon Kansas a framework of government she loathed, the work of men whom she abhorred as usurpers and impostors. There will be other speakers, but Mr. STANTON, a fervid and effective orator, is the man whom the People will assemble to hear. Those who go early will obtain comfortable seats, with the best opportunities to see and hear. The meeting is called by Democrats, but will be attended by Free-men irrespective of party. It will probably be the largest, as it will surely be the most important, political gathering of the season.

That Ward's Island job was stopped last night, the Aldermen voting to rescind the resolutions of last year directing the purchase. Pickings amounting to several thousand dollars, it is believed, were contingent upon the completion of this bargain. Since the exposure of the Lowther trade, the City Fathers are less anxious to purchase real estate.

We shall not be jolly over our Turk—the Aldermen back out, and all preparations for his reception have been suspended. That little obstacle in the Charter about appropriating money for celebrations could not be dodged. The Turkish Admiral will therefore escape an intolerable bore, and undoubtedly find in private hospitality all the lionizing he can desire.

Those ambitious speculators who are trying to remove the steamboat landings for the benefit of up-town property, will observe that Jersey City offers ample accommodations at very light expense. If the boats must move, it is pretty certain that they will go across the river rather than to the upper part of our own city.

Our Aldermen last night put through the Tax Levy for 1858, amounting to nearly \$8,500,000. There was a sharp contest on the item of \$10,000 to be given to Fernando Wood, but it was kept in by a strict party vote—10 to 7. The Opposition, after attempting to add \$10,000 to repay the Police Commissioners for fighting Wood in the Courts, but that was of course defeated. Persons having

claims against the city will please observe that this putting in \$10,000 for Wood is the only reason why the Tax Levy has been delayed. Had the friends of the ex-Mayor made this a separate bill, the regular Levy might have been adopted weeks ago, and the public creditors would have got their money. As it is, the bill (if Mayor Tiemann does not veto it) will get to Albany perhaps by the 25th inst.; but how long do the Democratic Aldermen imagine it will take their friends to force this \$10,000 down the majority of the Legislature? Men who are forced to sell their claims against the city at a heavy discount, while there is an abundance of money in the Treasury, will note who it is that is keeping them out of their just dues.

The steamship Niagara, with three days' later news from Europe, now fully due, had not arrived at Halifax at 7 o'clock yesterday evening, when the telegraph lines stopped working east of Bangor.

In CONGRESS yesterday, the Senate passed, by the close vote of 26 to 25, that section of the Army bill which proposes to add two companies to each of the present regiments. The increase was limited to two years, which Mr. Hale considered a sheer illusion. Resolutions making appropriations for printing the opinions of the Supreme Court in the Dred Scott case were reported and passed. An amendment thereto to the effect that in printing the opinions the Senate did not mean to endorse the doctrines which they advanced was voted down, only the Republicans supporting it.

In the HOUSE, Mr. Stanton of Ohio reported a question which had been asked Mr. J. W. Wolcott by the Lawrence & Stone Investigating Committee, with Mr. Wolcott's answer, which the Committee deem evasive and unsatisfactory. They therefore demand a warrant to bring Mr. W. before the House, as in contempt of its authority. This, after a desultory debate, was agreed to, and Mr. Wolcott will be arraigned this morning. The Special Committee on the Kansas message was announced by the Speaker. Its constitution is commented upon elsewhere.

The House of Representatives, by the full vote ever given therein on any legislative question, has deliberately ordered an investigation into all the circumstances preceding and governing the formation of the Lecompton Constitution for Kansas. Its whole action on this matter unmistakably implies a conviction, on the part of the majority, that said Constitution should be accepted and ratified by Congress only in case it is proved to have emanated from the People of Kansas and to be acceptable to a majority of them. A minority of the House insisted that no investigation was needed—that the assent of the People of Kansas was immaterial—that Congress should accept this Constitution as they see fit. This view was urged with desperate pertinacity, but it was overruled, and the House ordered the investigation, leaving the selection of a Committee, as usual, to the Speaker, who yesterday announced it as follows:

THOMAS L. HARRIS, (Douglas Dem.), of Illinois.
ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS, (Lecompton Dem.), of Georgia.
JESSE B. MORRILL, (Republican), of Vermont.
JOHN LITCHER, (Lecompton Dem.), of Virginia.
EDWARD WADE, (Republican), of Ohio.
JOHN A. QUINCY, (Lecompton Dem.), of Missouri.
WARREN WINDLE, (Lecompton Dem.), of N. C.
HENRY BENNETT, (Republican), of N. York.
DAVID S. WALKER, (Republican), of Michigan.
JAMES REYNOLDS, (Republican), of Massachusetts.
WILLIAM F. RUSSELL, (Lecompton Dem.), of N. Y.
ALTON WHITE, (Lecompton Dem.), of Pennsylvania.
GARRET W. ADELMAN, (Douglas Dem.), of N. J.
THOMAS L. ANDERSON, (Lecompton Dem.), of Kentucky.
JOHN H. STEWART, (Lecompton Dem.), of Kentucky.

Eight Members of this Committee have done their utmost to defeat the investigation which the House has ordered, while but seven have favored that investigation. Col. Orr in effect gives Mr. Stephens the control of this important Committee, knowing him to be intensely hostile to its objects and its creation. Mr. Stephens, with the hearty sympathy of the Speaker, did his utmost to defeat the raising of this Committee; but the House ordered it in spite of him; and now Col. Orr, as Speaker, gives Mr. Stephens a majority on the Committee—in effect telling him to frustrate and smother the investigation which he failed to prevent.

We do not believe the Lecomptonites will gain anything, at last, by this violation of all Parliamentary rule and courtesy; but it imposes on their opponents in the House an obligation of incessant watchfulness. Should a dozen anti-Lecompton Members absent themselves for a few days, there is no security that Stephens may not abruptly close the investigation, report the bill and rush it through (that is, into and out of) Committee of the Whole, and try to put it forth on its passage under the screw of the Previous Question. The Republican who is absent unpaired for a single day henceforth, until the fate of the Calhoun contrivance is sealed, in effect betrays his constituents and exposes the cause of Free Kansas to an ignominious defeat. Emphatically in this case is "Eternal vigilance the price of Liberty."

We have, from time to time, called attention to the attempts in progress in the cotton-growing States for the revival of the African slave-trade. When, pending the discussion of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, we suggested that the next demand of the Slave-driving party would probably be the revival of that infamous traffic, that suggestion was received on the part of the Northern journals in the slaveholding interest as a piece of malice so extravagant and absurd, as to carry its own refutation with it. The correctness of our anticipations was, however, speedily realized. No sooner was the Kansas usurpation fairly under way, no sooner have the Northern Democrats kissed the dirt under the feet of the Border-Ruffian invaders of that Territory, than several of the Southern legislatures began to turn their attention to the revival of the African slave-trade as a necessary complement to the Kansas-Nebraska policy. For how was Kansas to be supplied with slaves unless the price was so reduced as to enable that and other new Western Territories to be peopled by slave laborers, without being obliged to compete with the cotton-growers—a competition which, while it still left Kansas practically a Free-Labor State, might, nevertheless, inconveniently raise the price which the cotton-growers would have to pay. The idea of the price of field-slaves getting up to five thousand dollars a head might be agreeable enough to Governor Wise and the slavebreeders of Virginia, but in Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas that prospect was not so pleasing.

The first suggestion was to get a repeal of the laws prohibiting the African slave-trade. Congress had been persuaded to repeal the Missouri compromise, and why not these laws also? But it was soon seen that, in carrying out this programme, serious obstacles would have to be encountered—not from the Northern Democracy, whose pliability on the Kansas-Nebraska question left nothing to be

feared in that quarter, but from the slave-breeding interest of the northern tier of Slave States, whose prospect of getting the price of good hands up to five thousand dollars the revival of the African slave-trade would indefinitely postpone.

Meanwhile, some enterprising citizens of Mississippi—a State in which the art of getting round, creeping through or running over the most express legislative acts is pretty well understood—have taken a hint from that eminent democrat and philanthropist, Louis Napoleon, to revive the slave-trade on their own hook, without any necessity of any appeal to Congress in the matter. A certain Mr. Hughes of that State has, it seems, been in correspondence with "a number of highly intelligent and practical gentlemen now in the slave-trade"—whether resident on the coast of Africa or in the City of New-York does not appear—the result of which correspondence has been an application to the Legislature of Mississippi to incorporate a company for the bringing into that State of "native African negroes," "bound and obligated by negotiable labor obligations to work and serve for the benefit of the holders or owners of the said labor obligations for the full term of twenty-nine years." These "native African negroes" it is proposed to procure, after the French fashion introduced or patronized by Louis Napoleon, by purchasing them on the River Congo, or wherever else they can be had on the Coast of Africa for the least money. It might be asked, would not the importation of these Africans, thus purchased, be a violation of the acts of Congress prohibiting the importation of slaves? To this it is replied—taking advantage of a distinction which has at times been a good deal relied upon by the opponents of Slavery—that slaves are not property only, not merely chattels, but they are also persons, and as such capable of volition.

Under the laws of Congress, as they now stand, it would not, according to the argument of those who propose to enter on this new African enterprise, be at all necessary to resort to the fetch of bringing in their native Africans as indentured laborers. Though the acts of Congress prohibit the importation of slaves—that is to say, their involuntary arrival here—there is nothing in those acts, so it is alleged, to prohibit their voluntary migration hither. The presumption, indeed, might be, that being slaves they were not voluntary immigrants; but this presumption, it is thought, might be set aside by an examination of the slave separate and apart from his master, in analogy to the separate examination of the wife who signs a deed, in order to ascertain that it was not done by coercion of her husband. The fact that the slaves came voluntarily being thus established, their coming would then be perfectly lawful. With such Judges as they have in Mississippi, aided by skillful interpreters—since these native Africans could hardly be expected to speak English, especially if a good sound American rawhide, having previously been exercised on the back of the African to be examined, should, pending the examination, be hung up in plain sight over the Judge's head—this scheme might succeed perfectly well. There is a possibility, however, that Congress might take upon itself to prohibit this voluntary arrival of involuntary laborers. It is by way of having two strings to the bow; it is to be prepared against any such emergency, that the indentures for twenty-nine years are suggested. These indentures, it is maintained, will change the native Africans who sign them from slaves into voluntary laborers, and the arrival of such voluntary laborers, Congress, it is alleged, neither has prohibited nor has the constitutional power to prohibit. "It is completely and absolutely beyond the jurisdiction of Congress, and completely and absolutely within the jurisdiction of the States alone." It is "an undelimited sovereign State right," rendered by the course of events "inexpressibly dear and incalculably useful." For this point the Dred Scott case is quoted with great emphasis. That case decides that the only two provisions in the Federal Constitution, referring to Africans, treat them as property, which it is the duty of the Federal Government to protect, and that in any other character than in that of property Congress has no right to legislate concerning them. As voluntary immigrants, under indentures to serve for the trifling period of twenty-nine years, these native Africans would be exclusively objects of State legislation, to be admitted or not at the pleasure of the State; nor, once thus admitted, would there be any difficulty in the way of converting them by State legislation back into slaves. This is another point decided by the Dred Scott case, according to which the States possess an exclusive and unlimited power to fix the status of the negroes resident among them, short, that is, of making them citizens of the United States. It is accordingly proposed by these Mississippi philanthropists, after having evaded the laws of the United States by bringing in these native Africans purchased on the River Congo, or elsewhere, in the character of indentured laborers bound to service for a term of years, to proceed in due time, by virtue of the power vested in the States to determine the status of the negroes resident among them, to "elevate" these indentured laborers into Slavery, to give, instead of a warranty of the comforts to be had on a Mississippi cotton plantation, for the pitiful term of twenty-nine years, a warranty of the like comforts to them and their posterity forever. It is not, however, proposed to complete immediately this act of munificence, this valuable gift as well to the holders of "the labor obligations" as to the native Africans. What is wanted at the present moment is "the open supply of African labor." The Mississippians of the present day can afford to be satisfied with repudiating the obligations of the State. Satisfied with that honor, they may be content to leave to those to come after them the privilege of dealing in the same way with the obligations of individuals. "A single act of the Legislature ten or twenty years hence can do that." It will be sufficient for the Mississippians of the present day to have proved their philanthropy by furnishing the means to purchase those native Africans and to bring them to the United States as "voluntary laborers." They can safely leave it to the Mississippians of the future to complete this act of beneficence by reconverting, in due time, these voluntary laborers into slaves. There is, indeed, another strong reason for delaying this consummation. While on the cotton plantations these indentured servants for twenty-nine years will serve every purpose of slaves; they will help to swell the representation of Mississippi in Congress by counting the same as so many freemen, thus merely adding to the wealth, but to the political power of their masters.

Such is the scheme now before the Mississippi Legislature. To judge from the zeal with which President Buchanan supports the Lecompton swindle, he, at least, may be confidently relied upon to

give the whole support of his official position toward carrying it out.

That active and efficient body, the Board of Education, has just issued a somewhat expensive volume of about 450 pages, denominated "Fiftieth Annual Report." Though prettily stamped on the outside with the figures 1857 (probably to show that it has tried to keep up with the times), the Fiftieth Annual Report is a year behind the time, being in point of fact the report for the year 1856. Whether the publication of this important work was purposely delayed, in order that the constituents of its authors should not find them out and reward their merits in spite of their modesty, or whether it is intended as a specimen of the promptitude with which those guardians of our destinies do their business, is a matter on which all light is denied us. But though this heedless, hurry-scurry community may think the report out of date, stale and unprofitable, they cannot call it that, for it literally teems with lively facts.

The law authorizes Ward Schools for children and Normal Schools for teachers; but it seems that these devoted gentlemen, not being satisfied with spending the public money in that way, have contrived a daily Normal School for those intending to become teachers. A part of the plan was, that "certain pupils" (probably the nieces and nephews of the Commissioners), for coming there and being educated gratis, and occasionally playing at teachers, should receive a salary of \$25 per annum. As it was found that they could spend all the money the Controller would give them without resorting to this, the Commissioners gave up this "part of the plan," and contented themselves with employing teachers to the tune of about \$25 a pupil, for what in the Ward Schools costs about \$8. The school, however, proved a failure for want of pupils, and had to be bolstered up by removing the restriction that it should be for those intending to become teachers. Notwithstanding this liberality, Young America declined to come in without the \$25, and the report sadly remarks that without "that, the privileges of the school have not been sought with the eagerness which was anticipated and desired."

But the report discovers a bright spot—in fact, kindles into a glow, over the consumption of fuel—the increased expenditure for which it informs us is "moderate and satisfactory." The cost of fuel in 1852 was, for the Public School Society, less than \$5,500—for the Board of Education less than \$8,000—while the number of pupils was 42,000. The cost of fuel in 1856 appears to have been \$24,136, while the number of pupils was but 44,000. For about the same number of pupils, we are therefore paying little less than double the amount paid four years ago. Add to this the fact that fuel was a great deal cheaper in 1856 than in 1852, and that cost has to a great extent taken the place of the old wood stoves, and it becomes apparent that when the report speaks of the increased expenditure as "moderate and satisfactory," it means "moderate" for the Board of Education and "satisfactory" to the contractor and inspector of fuel.

But alas, the increase for supplies "is very unsatisfactory." Nobody seems to know why, not even the Committee on Supplies. The Board of Education buys all the supplies, and does them out to the schools, and keeps everybody on short allowance, and yet the increase (a favorite word in this report) amounts from \$60,223 to \$73,837 in a single year, while the number of pupils is less instead of greater. The report does not inform us who the contractors were, nor whether it was the quantity or the price which increased, nor whether the Board of Education paid more for supplies than anybody else did, nor whether any extravagance was ever stopped or even inquired into—all of which questions would have required but short replies, and the replies would have been quite as interesting as the list of "young gentlemen" who patronize the Free Academy.

It is humorously stated that one object in annually publishing the report is that "it affords to the 'new Board some degree of benefit from the experience of their predecessors.'" With such advantages, the Board of Education ought to have become about perfect, and at any rate should have left nothing undone. Let us see what it says of itself: "The subject of a census for the children of this City who do not attend any school has been for several years before the Board." The City Superintendent "gave his opinion in favor of some action," and the Board, in November, 1854, "directed the appointment of a Committee, who made a report on the 23d of the same month, but the year closed without the consummation of the measure." Another Committee reported in favor of a census in 1856, "but it was presented too late for final action," and "the measure therefore remains unaccomplished." Besides, it seems that, with a mass of false and fictitious statistics, "no return is made of the number of children actually 'taught.'"

"Efficient laws have been passed for subjecting to the public care children whose best interests are sacrificed by their natural guardians," which, as we know without the aid of the Board of Education, are like most of the laws in this City, a dead letter. Yet it is really refreshing to be informed that, while we are paying over \$1,000,000 per annum to elevate the masses by education, these laws "must remain inoperative until some system is matured by which such of these children as are 'destitute shall have schools opened to them; for, practically, our Ward Schools are unavailable to that class.' Over one million a year for education, and, 'practically,' no schools for the 30,000 children who need them most! The Board of Education is, indeed, an 'efficient arm' of our Government, and this report, though not very beneficial to the new Board, who went out of office the day after it was published, is still likely to be quite interesting to tax-payers and citizens generally.

The increase in the current expenses of the schools between 1854 and 1856 was "more than forty-one per cent," and general rules and regulations are the only limitation which can be imposed on the Ward Boards, yet "it cannot be denied that the Board of Education has thoroughly discharged its duty in the enactment of general rules and regulations." "The amount paid for teachers' salaries for the year 1856 was forty-eight per cent. larger than for 1854," and this increase, it appears, "was not only aided, but stimulated and carried to excess by injudicious by-laws of the Board of Education." "Having been found impracticable and injurious, the by-laws were repealed on the 21st of March, 1856," and the Ward Boards have been allowed to do just as they please ever since.

We pass over numerous smaller matters—such as the fact that the Board is paying rent without knowing what is in the leases; and, indeed, in two cases, paying it where there is reason to believe it

is not legally due. But can any stronger commentary be written on any public body—our Board of Aldermen not excepted—than the Board of Education has furnished upon itself in this document?

"Great is the truth," says an old maxim, "and it will prevail"—provided, always, we beg leave to add, if you can get it at. Truth crushed to earth will rise again. That was the deliberately expressed opinion of Mr. Bryant, who went to the trouble of putting his sentiment into verse oft quoted. But suppose that Truth turns out a mere fly-away and hide-and-go-seeker, so that the false cannot get at her to crush her, or meanders in such maze regions and intricate labyrinths that even if she should be laid upon her back, the veracious would not be able to find her, to pour oil into her wounds and to set her upon her venerable pins again? We think it was Voltaire who said that falsehood had its charms. The philosopher should have lived here and now. Then he would have had the satisfaction of beholding the ancient President of this Republic, together with the flower of his chivalry, doing everything possible to promote falsehood, to legislate upon detected and notorious lies, and to keep poor Truth as recumbent as if the pyramid of Cheops reared upon her gentle bosom. And he might have enjoyed a still purer triumph if he could have attended the meeting of the Committee on Ferries in this city on Wednesday last. We have a vast respect for an ignoramus, except when he is called as a witness. We have a compassion for mnemonic shortness, except when the disability has evidently been self-incurred. If a gentleman says to us that he cannot recollect a date, a number, or an ordinary occurrence, we pity and pardon him. Very respectable persons are said to have forgotten their own names. But Mr. Non-memorando upon the stand is a very suspicious personage, and should not be let off lightly. The number of those who know nothing after they have been sworn to tell the truth and the whole truth is rapidly increasing; and if the oblivion which prevails in the present is to be proportionately darkened in the future, we may just as well, and at once, strike out from dictionaries such words as "evidence," "testimony" and "perjury."

Somebody has squatted upon the Battery. Somebody has there, without leave or license, constructed a pier; and from that pier the Staten Land Ferry Company is running its boats. Now, this proceeding, however creditable in an architectural point of view, and however much it may have tended to the embellishment of Whitehall street, and of the poor Battery, which is sadly in need of a "fixing up," was nevertheless a fraud upon the city, and one calculated to keep money out of the treasury, now so painfully depleted. It is, however, a singular circumstance that nobody thought of making any fuss about the business until the pier was completed, and the Company was in full possession. This is always the case. When our best horse has trotted off, with his unscrupulous appropriator in the saddle, we buy the biggest log we can find and put it upon the barn-door. So, after the Company had been comfortably ensconced for two years, some civic magnate, taking, perhaps, a Sunday stroll in that vicinity, discovered Mr. George Law's ferry-boats, and imposing wooden gate, and illicit pier. Now there is, of course, to be an investigation.

So upon Wednesday the Ferry Committee sent for the witnesses. First came Mr. Jacob Smith, lessee of the Ferry Company. This gentleman was exceedingly forgetful. He declared in the beginning that "it was of no use to swear him;" and this was probably the most truthful remark which he made during his examination. He was like the beggar-boy in "Bleak House," who "didn't know nothink." He did not know when the Staten Island ferry-boats began to run. He did not know when the pier was built. He was K. N. from sole to scalp. What an unsophisticated Jacob Smith! His numerous relations have reason to be proud of him.

Then advanced Mr. George Law, King of Steam-boats, Lord of Railways, and lately *The Herald's* candidate for the Presidency of the United States. He took the oath with cheerful alacrity. He admitted, to begin with, that he was President of the Ferry Company. But after that he became very cloudy and oblivious. He did not know who built the pier, nor yet when it was built. He did not know that it was a violation of law to establish the ferry. He was in a condition of profound ignorance concerning a title (if he has one) to secure which he would not doubt paid a tall pile of money! Who credits this? The Committee did not; we do not; the public will not. Mr. Law undoubtedly does know when, by whom and in what way the pier was constructed; and we do not think it at all reputable for a man of his standing thus to quibble and prevaricate, if not to worse. He is the owner of several highly valuable franchises. But these are not a whit more sacred than the property of the City in the Battery. If his rights should be attacked, how would he relish a sudden loss of memory on the part of his chief witnesses?

The Committee, in despair, turned again to Mr. Jacob Smith. "Mr. Smith," said an Alderman, "we think you could tell us something about the pier and ferry if you were inclined." Mr. Smith replied (being still in the "don't know nothink" mood), "I don't know anything at all about it." Now, who does know anything about it? There is the pier. How did it get there? Did it drop from Heaven? Did it rise from the sea, like some islands? Was it the work of invisible hands? Was it erected in the still night by benevolent fairies in love with Mr. George Law? Was it the production of the corn insect? When it was constructed was the work done secretly and in silence? Did no hammer fall, no ponderous anvil ring? Did all at once the mighty structure spring?

We do not pretend to know much about the motives of those who have instituted this investigation. They may have a large bundle of private axes to grind, for anything we know to the contrary. But we do think, 1. That ferry privileges should remain forever under the control of the city, and that no Company should be allowed to start one upon its own hook; 2. That the city land and adjacent waters belong to the city, and that the squatting system will work better in Minnesota than in New-York; and 3. That when a witness is summoned before a Municipal Committee, he should, however feeble may be his moral sense, "make an effort" to tell the truth.

The Herald commits itself in a criticism on Neal Dow as follows:

"He returns here, and finds some States with, some without, Prohibitory laws; but the only difference between the two, in respect of drinking, is that where the Prohibitory law is in force, the liquor drunk is usually bad of its kind. The law is found to deteriorate the quality of the liquor drunk under it in the precise proportion that it increases the quantity. In Maine, *Dr. C. says, 'one drink was bad, and run, and run, and after years, then they were all before.'*"

—As Maine has no Prohibitory Law, and has had

none for two years past, we submit that *The Herald* has here rather p at its foot in it.

The Union, in its comments on the reference by the House of Representatives of the President's Kansas Message to a Committee of Inquiry, makes a statement as to the object and intent of the Kansas-Nebraska act, which we do not remember to have met with before. That act, we are told, was a "solemn international pledge" for leaving Kansas to be filled up by "natural immigration," and that these natural immigrants, free from outside interference or agitation, should be left the question of Slavery. If such was the intent and meaning of the act, it was unfortunate, to say the least, that some such provision was not inserted in it. There was nothing in the letter of the act to prevent the people of New-England or of any other State from undertaking the colonization of Kansas, either individually or in companies; nothing whatever which reserved to the inhabitants of the neighboring counties of Missouri the exclusive right of settling in Kansas. Are we to understand *The Union* to go the length of maintaining that the New-England company which planted the town of Lawrence had no right to make that settlement? and that the Free-State settlers generally are intruders whom the good people of Missouri were perfectly right in driving from the ballot-boxes; whom the Territorial Legislature were justified in disfranchising; to whom the Lecompton Convention very properly refused the privilege of passing upon the Lecompton Constitution; and whom the Congress of the United States ought to refuse to recognize as forming a part, and the larger part, of the people of the Territory?

At the time, no pretence of this sort were set up. The proposition, when first suggested, that the friends of Freedom throughout the country should cooperate to secure among the emigrants to Kansas a free-labor majority, was admitted even at the South to be unexceptionable. After the slaveholders have been thoroughly beaten in this competition of their own inviting, after they have been foiled in their attempts by force and violence to drive the Free-State men out of the Territory, we find the monstrous pretence set up that it was part of a solemn international pledge of the Kansas-Nebraska act that no organized immigration into the Territory was to be allowed. *The Union* means, we conclude, no organized immigration from the Free States; inasmuch as it cannot but be aware that, long before the Kansas-Nebraska bill had passed, extensive organizations had already been formed in Missouri for rushing into the Territory and getting the control of it. But this, we suppose in the view of *The Union*, is nothing more than "natural immigration."

We regard the opinion that with Kansas, Oregon and Minnesota admitted as Free States into the Union, the question of a Free State preponderance will be forever settled, as a crude and unfounded judgment. It is true that, if they should be now admitted, the Free States would have a majority of three or four in the Confederacy. But when this is done, and Washington shall become a State, and a State shall be made on the western boundary of Minnesota, from what quarter are future Free States to come? The idea is delusive that because we may get a momentary preponderance, that preponderance is likely to be perpetual. We beg our over-sanguine critics to remember that, while we are limited on our Northern side, the contemplated additions of territory upon our Southern border are quite boundless, and that Slavery is to be the rule in all. At the present moment we have Cuba and Central America on hand, while another slice of Mexico awaits only the purchasing. Aside from these countries, whose annexation must be pronounced imminent, are we not constantly told that the process of absorption by us toward the South is going on, and that it will be extended indefinitely; and is there not good reason for the belief? Besides, is not New-Mexico ripening into a Slave State? Is not the new Territory of Arizona, just springing into being, to form yet another; and does not the right exist by compact for the carving of three additional Slave States from the Territory of Texas? Upon what ground of sober judgment, then, is it confidently announced that the battle of Slavery is already fought and won, and that a future unequivocal preponderance is to remain with the Free States? We fear there is no more solid basis for the conclusion than an over sanguine expectation, growing out of rosy views of the future, for which no warrant is to be found either in the history of the past or in the present state of the country.

Although Comonfort has been, by the desertion of his troops, obliged to abandon Mexico, the clergy and the revolution can by no means be considered as having established their authority. Comonfort fell in consequence of having lost the support of the Liberal party, which had been from the beginning the main stay of his power. The struggle still remains to be carried on between that party, headed by Juarez, and as yet sustained by the troops and generals stationed at a distance from Mexico, and those who in that city have gone over to the side of the clergy. It may be that the example set by the troops of the capital will prove contagious, and that the other generals and detachments, or most of them, will as suddenly go over to the clerical side. In that case, the Liberals would probably find themselves obliged to succumb, and the clerical party would succeed in the temporary reestablishment of their authority. This, however, is by no means certain; nor can the cause of the Liberals be yet set down as by any means desperate.

CANADA—NEW MINISTERS.—We find the following appointments in the last *Canada Gazette*: "The Hon. John Ross, to be Receiver-General of the Province of Canada, in the room of the Hon. Joseph C. Morrison, resigned; and the Hon. Sidney Smith, to be Postmaster-General of the Province, in the room of the Hon. Robert Spence, resigned."

Messrs Spence and Morrison have resigned, we presume, because they were thrown out of Parliament at the late elections. A Minister thus defeated must either get himself elected from some other District—a convenient friend making way for him—or he must go out, it being deemed essential under the British system that a Minister must have a seat in Parliament. There is a flavor of Popular Sovereignty in this that we like, but how it would break things in this country! Just think of Gen. Cass, with Lecompton on his back, undertaking to run for Congress next Fall in Michigan! or Mr. Toucy in Connecticut! or Mr. Black in south-western Pennsylvania! The bare prospect would set their teeth chattering six months ahead.

THE FORT SELLING SALE.—Col. John J. Tyler of Louisa Co., Virginia, arrived in our city last evening, having been deputed by the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives to summon witnesses in the case of the sale of Fort Snelling. He informs us that he has subjects for Col. Stewart of St. Louis, Col. Donaghy, Prairie-du-Chien, Col. Atchafalaya, Major Martin, Mr. Frank Steele, Col. Sam. Melary and Col. Towhee of Augusta, (St. Paul) Minnesota, 300 miles